Redstone Rocket

VOL. 51 No. 9 | *Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL* | March 6, 2002

Army in action

Black Hawk up to mission; part 2 of series on systems

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Money matters

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Win or lose

Bravo Company team beats A&M ROTC with late free throws

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Health center spreads virus facts

HIV training session slated March 13 at Heritage Hall

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

Talking about the HIV virus isn't always easy. The issue is steeped in paranoia, personal choices and consequences. Abstinence, condoms, drug use, high risk sexual behaviors are private matters most people want kept private. To even bring it up means examining, on some level, your own behaviors. The problem is, HIV won't just go away.

"Roughly a million Americans have HIV," Capt. Farrell Adkins, chief of Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center, said. "It exists. It does exist at Redstone. Our goal is to educate the soldiers and the community about the virus and with education and awareness, we hope to alleviate fears and prevent the spread."

In a proactive effort to reach the community, the Public Health and Education Center is offering an hour class every other month to address HIV issues including testing, transmission, Army policy, HIV in the workplace and prevention. Classes will be from 11 a.m. to noon at Heritage Hall. The next class will be March 13. One hour of HIV training per year is mandatory for all active duty soldiers.

About 40,000 new HIV cases are reported in the U.S. each year. In Alabama, 453 new cases were reported in 2000. More than 500 people living in Madison County have the virus. Redstone Arsenal is not immune to it.

"Active duty soldiers can stay in the military with HIV," Adkins said. "It's entirely the soldier's call if they stay. It's kept private. We use the highest level of confidentiality when it comes to this issue."

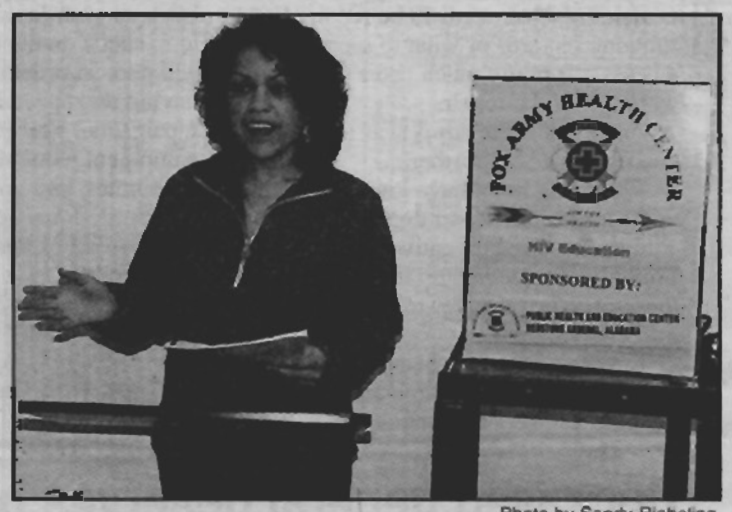

Photo by Sandy Riebeling

PROACTIVE APPROACH— In keeping with Army regulations for mandatory soldier training and suggested civilian education, the Public Health and Education Center is offering HIV awareness classes every other month at Heritage Hall. Tamiriz Centeno, PHEC nurse, will teach some of the classes.

Besides covering Army policy, the class provides information about transmission of the virus on the job.

"It's very close to zero," Adkins said. "Anyone in the work force trained and doing what they are supposed to do, will not get

See Virus on page 9

Army contracts out recruiting starting this spring

Two civilian companies to provide recruiters

By SSgt. MARCIA TRIGGS
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Military veterans will be suiting up in civilian attire to recruit for the Army beginning this spring.

In February the Army awarded two civilian companies contracts totaling $172.4 million to hire and manage recruiters for 10 different areas across the nation. The civilians will recruit for the active Army and reserve components in Jackson, Miss.; Oklahoma City; Dayton, Ohio; the Delmarva Peninsula or Eastern Shore of Delaware; Tacoma, Wash.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Wilmington, N.C.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Granite City and Homewood, Ill.

Neither the companies nor the recruiters they're hiring are strangers to the military. Both companies — Military Professional Resources Inc. and Resource Consultants Inc. — are located in Virginia and have been recruiting for the Army reserve components since 1999. They are currently looking to hire recruiters who have honorably served in the Army.

"Initially we will lose the advantage of the advertisement that the uniform gives, but once initial contact has been made with our recruiters, the Army experience and sincerity will show through to the prospects."

— Don Tarter
recruiting operations vice president, Military Professional Resources Inc.

Former soldiers who were recruiters by military occupational specialty are the most sought after in the hiring process, said Don Tarter, recruiting operations vice president for MPRI. Next are veterans who spent three years as detailed recruiters, or recruited for any of the other military branches. Finally, he said all individuals who have served in the Army and who are sharp, smart and energetic would be considered.

In May, recruiters for MPRI will take over companies in Delmarva and Tacoma and recruiters for RCI will take over recruiting companies in Wilmington, N.C., and Homewood, Ill. Vice presidents at both companies said that they are still in the process of hiring recruiters, and training for those hired will be conducted by the end of March. Station and company managers were to be trained by the end of February. Training for station and company managers may be similar, but both companies operate independently of each other, said Cardell Hunter, recruiting operations vice president for RCI.

Besides the initial training, which will include enlistment eligibility, current enlistment incentives and U.S. Army Recruiting Command policies and procedures,

See Recruiting on page 9

Letters to the editor

Automated system gets good diagnosis

I just wanted to say I truly enjoyed reading about VADS in the Feb. 20 edition of the *Redstone Rocket*. I feel the Army has fielded a great readiness tool: the portable testing diagnostic laptop — VADS (Vehicle Automated Diagnostic System). It's also nice to see that the Marine Corps is buying it from the Army and that they love it. I agree that the system is pretty amazing — by explaining what needs to be repaired and showing pictures of what to repair and where — it pretty much takes the guesswork out of the repair.

Just think if the Army was to take the concept of VADS further...

The Army has a huge knowledge base on how to better repair and maintain its equipment. The Preventive Maintenance Monthly (*PS Magazine*) is just one of those excellent sources to receive this info every month.

Envision programs being fielded for every type of Army equipment! Just imagine this system being incorporated into today's and future missile systems! Finally there's a way for basically anybody to fix a broken piece of equipment — developers could even combine it with existing programs (maybe an advanced offshoot of ULLS). So, replacement parts could automatically be ordered (providing greater asset visibility).

Just think if you were a missile repairperson or even a LAR you could hook up your laptop, diagnose the problem, check on the availability of the part and post an order — knowing (at least having an expected delivery date and repair time) how long that piece of equipment would be due. Literally within minutes, you could send a report to higher headquarters of your equipment status — all of this with just a few mouse clicks.

Wow, what an Army!

Thanks again for the great article.

Capt. Rob Dewberry
OSC South

Deceased general deserves better

We are approaching yet another Black History Month (February) with the picture of Maj. Gen. Stanford on the wall of building 5308 eating cheeseburgers and french fries, working on his car, mesmerizing women, lifting weights and jogging. I am appalled that this picture — while a few people look and comment on it quietly, nothing has ever been done to change it. I resented this picture in St. Louis, Mo., and I definitely resent it now. All of the other deputy commanders are doing something constructive, waving the flag, standing with tanks, bombs bursting in the air behind him, while Maj. Gen. Stanford sits at a desk with an empty outbox. I think that it's ironic that the same man became the superintendent of the Seattle School district and turned it completely around instead of taking a high paying contractor's job. I believe that if you asked anyone that lived in Seattle if this was the same man portrayed in this picture, you would hear a completely different story. While hospitalized once for the leukemia that he was fighting, he asked his students instead of sending flowers, plants and cards, read books for him.

He's gone now, but I would hate to think that the people of AMCOM only think of him as a stereotypical lazy black man.

Delores L. Frazier
equipment specialist, IMMC

Editor's note: The Equal Employment Opportunity Office provided the following response. "The picture in question was transferred to this command at the time of the merger of ATCOM and MICOM as a historical record of previous commanders of ATCOM. Maj. Gen. John M. Stanford and the appropriate authorities had approved the content of the picture at the time of its original release. Maj. Gen. Stanford's magnificent service record speaks far itself. Being so highly regarded as to have been chosen to address a Democratic National Convention and now interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Maj. Gen. Stanford's sterling service record, remarkable accomplishments and contributions to society and the nation are prime example of superior character and leadership."

Veterans should join organizations

Being a member of the Athens chapters of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the current president of Chapter 511, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), I read with interest the article in the Feb. 27 issue of the *Rocket* concerning the DAV's activities here in Huntsville and I commend them heartily for their contributions to the veteran community.

However, there was one inaccuracy in the article which needs to be pointed out as well as two clarifications which need to be made. It is stated in the article that, "If a veteran was a legal resident of Alabama and his initial enlistment was in the state of Alabama and he was at least 20 percent disabled at the time of his death, his children can go to any state supported institution free."

The inaccuracy is that the veteran need not be dead to reap this benefit for his/her children. I can assure you, I am very much alive. The clarifications are that the disability(ies) must be service connected and the veteran must have been a resident of the state of Alabama for at least one year before entering service for the initial enlistment. An affidavit must be signed by at least two people, not relatives either by blood or marriage, to this effect.

Again, I applaud the efforts of the Huntsville chapter of the DAV and echo the sentiments in the article of the importance of veterans to get involved in any or all of the veterans service organizations in the area.

Michael W. Davis
CPAC

Chemical disposal article on mark

Well done on your article on the Chemical Demil facility at Anniston. As the commander of the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, the design and construction agent for the PM for Chemical Disposal, I have worked on this project for some time. Well written, objective and balanced....

Col. Harry Spear
Huntsville Center, USACE

Fox health center slated for accreditation review

FOX ARMY HEALTH CENTER RELEASE

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Fox Army Health Center on April 10-12.

The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided.

Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representative at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to: Division of Accreditation Operations, Account Representative (Attn: Ms. Cannon), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., 60181.

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time and place of the meeting.

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AMCOM cited as top contributor in Combined Federal Campaign

Command's workers gave nearly $680K

AMCOM/Team Redstone employees give more to charity than any other federal workers in the Tennessee Valley.

The Aviation and Missile Command received the "Top Gun" award for 2001 from the United Way of Madison County during United Way's annual meeting Thursday at the Huntsville Marriott. With employee contributions of $679,911, AMCOM was recognized for being first among the 34 federal agencies in the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign.

The 2001 CFC raised more than $1.83 million. During the luncheon, United Way recognized several groups that helped the annual United Way campaign collect more than $6 million.

Honorees included loaned executives and their organizations that participated in the United Way and CFC campaigns.

Plaques were presented to: AMCOM, Col. Ed Stone, chief of staff, Gay Money, loaned executive; Paul Sandhu, IMMC loaned executive; Barbara Roberts, Acquisition Center loaned executive; Jim Will, TMDE loaned executive; Phyllis Kindred, RASA loaned executive; Phyllis Henley, DCSS loaned executive; Jim Kennedy, deputy director of Marshall Space Flight Center, loaned executive Jeneene Sams; Air Force Col. Bob Dixon, deputy director of MSIC; Hector Gaba, TVA Browns Ferry; Dan Rhodes, deputy commander of LOGSA, Robert Salinas, loaned executive; Phillip Patterson, LFCC member, accepting for SMDC and loaned executive Thaddeus Brown; and Linda Readus, LFCC member, accepting for RDEC and loaned executive Linda Taylor.

United Way of Madison County serves as the principal combined fund organization for the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign.

Harold Garner/ Photo Lab

TOP GUN— Participating in the presentation of Top Gun award to AMCOM/Team Redstone are, from left, John Hawkins, president of United Way of Madison County, United Way's Melinda Seigler who works with the Combined Federal Campaign; Gay Money, chairman of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for CFC; and Jim Flinn, deputy to the commanding general of the Aviation and Missile Command.

Sparkman Center opens door to revised rules for entrance

Less people needed to check badges; gym reopens to outside members

By SHAREE MILLER
For the Rocket

Changes are in the works for access to the Sparkman Center Complex. Fewer access control personnel will sit at each entrance and the Sparkman Fitness Center will reopen to outside members.

Organizations assigned to check badges at each door were given the go-ahead to have only one person per shift at each post. If an organization or individual is not comfortable with having only one person, it will be up to them to provide additional support. All doors to the complex will now be unlocked at 6 a.m. Building 5300 will be locked at 5 p.m. Buildings 5303 and 5304 will be locked at 5:30 p.m. All other buildings will be locked at 4 p.m.

The Sparkman Fitness Center will reopen again from 5 a.m. until 7 p.m. From 5-6 a.m. and from 4-7 p.m., individuals can enter and exit through the north door of the fitness center. Team Redstone badge holders can enter into or exit from the fitness center through the complex during the hours of 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Since Sept. 11, each organization that is housed in the complex has pulled duty as access control personnel within the buildings they occupy to ensure everyone that enters the complex has proper identification.

Presently, in order to enter the complex without an escort, individuals must have a Team Redstone badge. Individuals with badges for MSFC, SMDC, Corps of Engineers, and MSIC can sign in at any entrance and enter the building with no escort. Visitors without these badges must enter building 5300 or 5308, arrange for an escort, and receive a badge from the visitor control office. If an employee of the complex forgets their badge, they must call a member of their office for verification and then go to visitor's reception to obtain a temporary, non-escort badge.

There is also a plan to have three vehicle gates installed around the complex; one at the loading dock, one at building 5303 and one at building 5308. These gates will allow access to personnel who deliver to the loading dock area as well as provide access in case of an emergency. Currently, the Sparkman Management Office uses vehicles to block access to the inner circle of the complex. If there is an emergency, response vehicles will have easier access to come directly up to the buildings.

Many suggestions were considered but not implemented to reduce the dependence on access control personnel:

- Contract out for access control personnel. The cost to contract out would be more than $427,000 per year.
- Limit number of doors open to the complex. Congestion and reduced accessibility for disabled employees cause this to be impractical.

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Army Emergency Relief fund-raising drive has patriotic kickoff

Photo by Skip Vaughn

CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN— 1st Lt. Jack Eagly, chairman of the AER campaign, talks after the kickoff for the 2002 fund-raising drive.

Goal of $50K targeted for annual campaign

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

The chairman for the 2002 fund-raising drive for Army Emergency Relief arrived last October with the Cullman-based National Guard unit deployed to augment Redstone's security force.

1st Lt. Jack Eagly, of Charlie Company, 1st/167th Infantry, volunteered to serve as AER chairman after a request for interested officers was e-mailed throughout the Redstone community. His company commander and the deputy post commander asked him if he would be interested and he agreed.

"It's something really big on Redstone and something everybody should be involved in," Eagly said. "Something everybody should be a part of. It's got a lot of great fund-raisers."

Eagly served as emcee at Monday's kickoff for this year's campaign. Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, delivered remarks. And the Wiltech Singers from J.E. Williams Technology Middle School performed patriotic songs under the direction of Pat Gray.

The goal for this year's campaign, which continues through May 15, is $50,000.

"It's an ambitious goal but certainly one that we will achieve," Dodgen told the approximately 100 attendees at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Last year Armywide $6.3 million was collected for AER and $39 million in assistance was provided to more than 57,000 soldiers and their families. Redstone raised more than $84,000 for AER last year and $320,124 was provided to 435 active and retired soldiers and their families in interest-free loans and grants.

The annual AER campaign "provides an opportunity to publicize and reinforce soldiers' awareness of Army Emergency Relief," according to Eagly.

"'United We Stand,' that's our slogan," he said.

MSgt. Perry West, of HHC AMCOM, is the campaign co-chairman. Kristi Foster is the AER officer at Army Community Service.

Living Last Supper on menu for Bicentennial Chapel

Members of chapel perform as actors

The entire community of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville is invited to the "Living Last Supper" dramatization March 28 at 7 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel.

This is a free event which will last approximately one hour. Entrance to Redstone Arsenal for this event must be made through Gate 10 (Patton Road) or Gate 9 (Rideout Road).

The presentation is a living reenactment of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. The roles will be played by members of the chapel.

"This presentation is powerful in its impact on the Christian community gathered to worship and reflect upon the meaning of all that happens to Jesus," a prepared release said. "Each growing Christian is compelled to ask the question of himself 'Is it I, Lord?'"

The performance is directed by Jeanie King, active in community theatre for 21 years. King has directed/assistant directed for most of the local theatre organizations as well as performed on stage as an actor and worked in various other technical areas of theatre. She has served on the boards of Huntsville Little Theatre and Theatre Huntsville. This will be the fourth production of the Living Lord's Supper for the Bicentennial Chapel.

There will be a picture session following the performance.

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African-American Festival draws strength from unity theme

About 500 celebrate seventh annual event

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

Team Redstone put on a nice show, with a little help from its friends.

The seventh annual African-American Festival, Thursday morning at Bob Jones Auditorium, celebrated teamwork and strength in unity with the theme "Team Redstone Standing United." There was music by choirs, art on display, and a video that included clips from the hit movie "Remember the Titans."

"If you're going to call yourself Team Redstone, then be a team. Be a true team," narrator Capt. James Pittman, of D Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said on the video titled "Team Redstone – A Reality or Myth."

The Save the Youth Club from Stone Middle School, under the direction of Eugene Edwards, sang as did the Alabama A&M University Choir directed by Richard F. Tucker. Tonya Terry, news anchor for WAAY television channel 31, served as emcee.

About 500 attended the event sponsored by the Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles and the Precision Fire Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office.

Awards were presented to winners of the unit/department display contest and the essay contest for Black History Month in February. The display winners included: Electronic Technology Training Department, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, first place; B Company, 832nd, second place; and Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 59th Ordnance Brigade, third place. Essay winners included PFC Michael Bernicci of B Company, first; Advanced NCO Course class 645-55B40-004-02, NCO Academy, second; and PFC Mdolole Moyo of B Company, third.

"The African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America's Defense" was the theme for this year's observance.

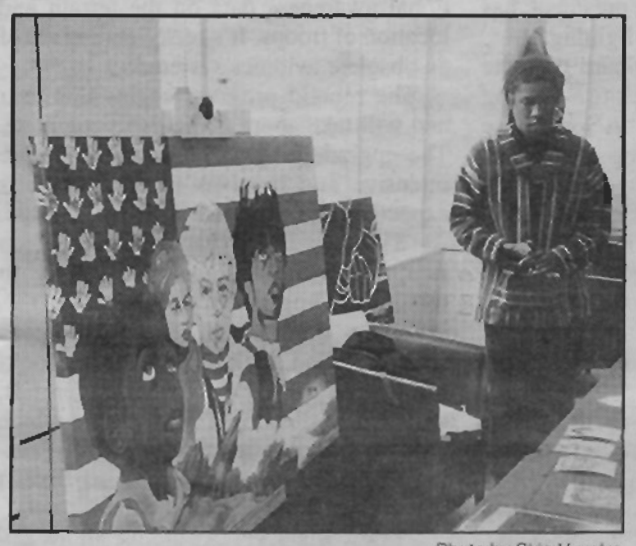

Photo by Skip Vaughn

ARTWORK— Professional artist John "Jahni" Moore, a Huntsville native residing in Taft, Tenn., shows some of his work in the lobby at Bob Jones Auditorium. The acrylic painting is titled "Us."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

A&M CHOIR— The Alabama A&M University Choir performs under the direction of Richard F. Tucker.

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Army in action

Black Hawk staying up with Army's enduring missions

Helicopter renowned in film still serving force worldwide

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
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Black Hawk has been getting a lot of attention lately, as much for its Hollywood debut as its real life combat support role in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I thought the movie was excellent," said Gerry Izzo, retired Army Black Hawk pilot who flew on the Somalian mission depicted in "Black Hawk Down." "It is technically accurate and dramatically correct, (meaning) that it very effectively captured the emotions and tension that we felt during the mission."

The movie focuses on two downed Black Hawks and the savage battle fought between U.S. troops and Somali fighters during the capture of leaders of the Somalian warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid. It's vicious. It's bloody. It is war.

Some of the things you don't see in the movie include hand-to-hand fighting with Somali militia men after the Rangers' ammunition supply is gone. You also don't see the other Black Hawks, many damaged by gunfire and rocket propelled grenades, make it safely back to the airfield.

"We'll get you home," Keith Roberson, deputy project manager for the Utility Project Office at AMCOM that manages the Black Hawk, said. "True, the Black Hawk can be shot down but it can take an incredible amount of hits and still get you back safely."

Perhaps that's one of the reasons Black Hawk is "loved worldwide." It is operated in 22 countries through direct or foreign military sales. It is used by the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The Army's current fleet of 1,533 aircraft includes models UH-60A, UH-60L and MH-60K and represents 24 years

Systems for the field
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of production. A current five-year contract for 60Ls will bring the fleet up to the Army objective of 1,680 aircraft.

"Black Hawks are a quick response (force) used for transporting and inserting troops, air assault, moving equipment, and resupply. We also have about 300 dedicated for MEDEVAC missions," Roberson said. "The Army rarely goes into a mission without the Black Hawk. We play a big role in war and peace time."

Other Black Hawk missions include command and control, combat search and rescue, VIP transport (the president has one), armed attack and fire fighting.

"The Oregon National Guard uses the Fire Hawk kit for their state's fire fighting mission," Roberson said. "A long hose connected to a suction pump on the aircraft allows water to be drawn, from any number of sources, stored in the 1,000 gallon tank then released from the hose. The system provides very good directional control so that water goes where it's needed."

Versatility and survivability are keys to the Black Hawks' success.

"There were survivors in those two Black Hawks that crashed in Somalia," Izzo said. "In the first crash, the pilots were killed, probably because they crashed into a building, but the other five people in the back survived. And everyone survived the crash that Mike Durant was on. It's a great aircraft."

The Army thinks so, too. Recapitalization programs are ongoing to bring the fleet into the Army's future Objective Force. The Army is taking the oldest of the fleet, about 193, and putting them in the rebuild program which is an overhaul to bring the aircraft back to like-new condition.

The recap upgrade program affects 1,217 aircraft and includes improvements in the airframe, propulsion/drive train and digitizing the cockpit.

"The 60A and L models will be upgraded to the 60M with a new cabin center section, propulsion upgrades for better performance and more horsepower, improved durability," Roberson said. "We're adding a digital cockpit. Right now it's all analog — dials, gauges, knobs — but with digital we'll have multifunction displays, the ability to view video from the FLIR, digital mapping for situational awareness data on the terrain and location of troops. It's really getting rid of an obsolete avionics system."

The rebuild program begins this year and will take about 10 years to complete. The upgrade program, because it is more intensive and involves more aircraft, is expected to be complete in about 20 years.

"The fleet is 25 years old," Roberson said. "It will take about that long to rebuild and upgrade it."

While the current fleet undergoes transformation, the project office is looking toward the Future Utility Rotorcraft, an effort to develop a new engine which will provide more horsepower while burning less fuel as well as enhanced aircraft survivability and communication.

"I flew Black Hawks almost all my 20-year career," Izzo, commercial pilot with COMAIR, said. "I was in Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Haiti. It's a great aircraft — about as good as you can get. Whatever replaces it 20 or 30 years from now isn't going to be a helicopter — it'll have to be something more like a George Jetson craft."

Courtesy photo

FREEDOM FIGHTER— Where the Army goes, the Black Hawk goes. For nearly 25 years, the utility helicopter has been transporting troops, equipment and supplies for combat and combat support. Black Hawks have been deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Courtesy photo

DOING THE JOB— Black Hawks pick up troops in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Sentinel stands guard at Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City

Two radars assigned full time during games

By BOB HUNT
For the Rocket

Redstone Arsenal played a key role in safeguarding the recently completed Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Two Army Sentinel radars, managed by the Short Range Air Defense Project Office, were assigned to full-time duty during the games. The Sentinel is a three-dimensional radar used to automatically detect, track, classify, identify and report airborne threats.

"We have worked with the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for several years now," said Sentinel product manager Lt. Col. David Cook, "to provide threat protection using a variety of FAA and DOD radars.

"FAA radars can view up and out great distances," Cook said, "but only Sentinel can complete the radar image by detecting low-flying threats, especially in mountain valleys like those around Salt Lake City." This is the second time Sentinel has served at an Olympics. Sentinel was also employed at the 1996 Atlanta games where it detected 48 aircraft penetrating restricted airspace. At the Salt Lake games, Sentinel radars detected more than 20 instances of low-flying aircraft, usually private airplanes, entering restricted airspace.

"Black Hawk helicopters were then dispatched to intercept and escort intruders away," Cook said.

The Sentinel radars used at the Salt Lake games belong to and were operated by personnel with the 1/44 Air Defense Artillery Unit, Fort Hood, Texas. The SHORAD Project Office provided a spare parts package and arranged for contractor field support.

Courtesy photo

ON DUTY— A Sentinel radar guards the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

Corpus Christi answers call from Operation Enduring Freedom

Depot helps repair damaged helicopter

By REY CORTEZ
Corpus Christi Army Depot

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — Operation Enduring Freedom came knocking at Corpus Christi's door Jan. 22. I received a call from AMCOM engineers Gilbert Leos and Nick Hurta informing us that a CH-47 (Chinook) was down on the front lines and they needed our help to get the aircraft back in the air.

A threaded hole for an oil sensor in the main forward transmission housing had been damaged and most of the threads were gone. The aircraft could not be flown without the required sensing unit installed on the transmission housing. Leos visited the machine shop and we discussed the details of the problem. A preliminary game plan for the repair was established and several machinists were brought in to explore the feasibility of the proposed procedure. Floyd Rayburn, a machinist with many years of "line machinist" repair and Jerry Wilson, the shop tool cutter/grinder, were shown the drawings for the part.

The game plan was simple in theory: drill the damaged hole about one-fourth inch larger in diameter, tap it to one and one-eighth inch, manufacture a threaded plug with the original threaded hole for the inside diameter, and install the plug into the housing. The challenge came in designing and manufacturing the tools required to complete the job in a very confined part of the aircraft. Wilson and Rayburn accompanied Leos to check a CH-47 in hangar 45 and measure the actual area to be repaired. A maximum length for the tools was established and it was determined that a power drill could not be used due to the confined area involved. Hand tools turned by a ratchet would be the only means of drilling and tapping the housing. This made it necessary to use three separate drills to step up to the final size and three separate taps with varying pilots.

The final task of manufacturing the required plug for the repair fell to machinist David Parker. Leos located a housing previously tagged "beyond economic repair" (BER) and brought it to the machine shop to use as an actual test for the tools. Another challenge to consider in the design of the repair procedure was the fact that the field repair team had no machinist experience. As each tool was manufactured and put to the test on the BER part, I recorded the procedure on a digital camera, converted the photos to a power point slide, and wrote step-by-step instructions for the use of each tool. If the tool did not work as planned, it was modified and tried again. At the end, all the required tools were numbered in the sequence of operation for ease of use in the field.

The entire process was completed by 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, just four days after the machine shop was first contacted. This is another example of what makes Corpus Christi Army Depot a very critical part of the Army and the defense of our nation. A dedicated team was required to be innovative and respond quickly at a very critical time. A complicated repair was designed and simplified for use by an inexperienced team. The proof of our success came when we learned that the tools performed flawlessly and the aircraft was once again performing its designated function in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Editor's note: Rey Cortez is supervisor of Corpus Christi's Directorate of Maintenance Machine Shop.

Photo by Rey Cortez

PROBLEM SOLVERS— Floyd Rayburn, left, Corpus Christi directorate of maintenance line machinist, and Jerry Wilson, tool cutter expert, show the tools manufactured and the housing used for testing the tools before shipment to Operation Enduring Freedom.

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Exchange service wants shoplifters to pay for what they took

Civil recovery program implemented March 1

ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE RELEASE

DALLAS — The Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) and the Department of Defense have asked for and received legislation that will grant federal retail stores the right to create civil recovery programs.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2002 amended the Federal Claims Collection Act by redefining a "debt" as it relates to non-appropriated funds. The amendment allows federal retailers like AAFES to pursue losses and administrative costs directly relating to shoplifting, theft detection and theft prevention as claims that the U.S. government can recover from shoplifters through existing federal debt collection methods.

AAFES implemented its Civil Recovery Program on March 1. In doing so, it will pursue the actual loss of the merchandise taken and charge a flat rate administrative cost on every shoplifting incident. If shoplifted merchandise is not returned to the store, or is returned but cannot be sold, AAFES will demand the full retail value of the merchandise. If it is recovered in damaged condition but still salable, AAFES will demand the difference between the full retail value and the reduced sale value. The administrative cost will be $200.

Under the Civil Recovery Program, military sponsors are responsible for their family members. A parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of a minor who commits the shoplifting offense will be liable to AAFES for the specified damages and costs.

The store manager of the AAFES facility where the shoplifting incident occurred will be required to send two demand letters for money damages. If the debt remains unpaid for 30 days, the store manager will then be required to notify the unit commander of the debt. In addition, the military sponsor's check cashing and Military Star card privileges will be suspended until the debt is either paid or waived.

The Civil Recovery Program is separate from any criminal prosecution or disciplinary action which can be taken.

Shoplifting in the military exchanges annually cost servicemembers millions of dollars. AAFES alone catches an average of 11,211 shoplifters each year. The expenses related to shoplifting, theft prevention and detection reduce the dividends available for the AAFES mission — to give back 100 percent of its earnings to exchange customers through quality of life programs and modern and convenient facilities to shop

Former employee convicted of theft from Post Exchange cash drawer

PROVOST MARSHAL OFFICE RELEASE

Chrissy Lee Fann, 21, of Huntsville, pleaded guilty Feb. 20 to a one-count criminal complaint specifying larceny of government funds from the Post Exchange.

Fann, who formerly worked in customer service at the PX, was formally charged in U.S. District Court after a lengthy probe by investigators of the Provost Marshal Office. The completed investigation resulted in the complaint entered by assistant U.S. attorney Deirdra Brown against Fann which revealed that between April 12 and July 27, 2000 Fann took more than $16,000 from her cash drawer.

Fann, sentenced Feb. 20, was remanded to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons for six months and ordered to pay $16,930.45 in restitution. She had worked about a year as a PX customer service representative.

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■ Center offers HIV awareness class to community

Virus

continued from page 1

the virus. Health care and rescue workers have a slightly higher risk of exposure but they also have more training in prevention. The fundamental strategy is not to expose yourself to other peoples' body fluids."

Prevention and risk behaviors are also discussed. About 75 percent of HIV cases are contracted through sex; another 20 percent is by IV drug use. The class promotes abstinence as a first choice. Beyond that, monogamy after both partners have been tested is recommended. Adkins points out that there is no "safe" sex. Latex condoms, however, will prevent the spread of the virus, whereas condoms made from animal skin will not.

"If you think you have been exposed, you shouldn't delay the test," Adkins said. "We can test here and offer pre and post test counseling. Results take about two weeks."

The goal of the class is to reduce the spread of HIV by understanding how the virus is contracted and to reduce the fear and stigma associated with the virus through education and awareness.

"We expect the class to evolve as we go," Adkins said. "And we can adjust it from class to class, depending on what the people want to know. The class is appropriate for everyone — active duty, dependents, retirees, civilians, contractors — anyone in the community that wants it. And it's free."

Adkins will share teaching duties with Tamiriz Centeno, a PHEC nurse. No preregistration is required. Simply show up at the appointed time and place. Classes are set for March 13, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11 and Nov. 13. For more information, call 842-0196.

■ Contract recruiters to fill military ranks for Army

Recruiting

continued from page 1

recruiters will have sustainment training to meet the needs of the individual recruiter, Hunter said. They will also receive annual refresher training to stay abreast of Army and USAREC policies, he added.

The contracts were awarded in accordance with the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, said Douglas Smith, the public affairs officer for U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

"The Department of Defense has said that we will conduct this multi-year test, and we are complying," Smith said.

The contract recruiters, which will be referred to as community-based recruiters by RCI because of their planned visibility in the community, will occupy the remaining stations by the end of October. The test will run through Sept. 30, 2007. The biggest challenge for the recruiters will be to convince the skeptics that civilians can successfully recruit for the Army, Hunter said. His company's past success should prove that it can be done, he said.

"We have demonstrated excellence in a number of Army programs," Hunter said. "In 1990 the Army awarded us a $168 million Army Career and Alumni Program contract. We also have provided transitional counseling to 1.1 million soldiers. We have recruited over 20,000 young men and women into the Army Reserve or National Guard. Our help desk, which provides counseling to soldiers who are leaving one state Guard unit to go to another, has reduced the attrition rate of Guard soldiers from 16 percent to under 2 percent."

MPRI also claims success in its recruiting efforts for the Army Reserve and National Guard. Since 1999, MPRI has peaked at 85 recruiters augmenting efforts at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Tarter said. And the company retains about 60 guidance counselors, who are responsible for qualifying the recruits, he added.

Past success got both companies in the door, but they know that the non-believers will watch their recruiters closely.

"Initially we will lose the advantage of the advertisement that the uniform gives, but once initial contact has been made with our recruiters, the Army experience and sincerity will show through to the prospects," Tarter said. "Then the differences between our recruiters and the traditional recruiters fade.

"We will be responsible for the same quotas and we will recruit the same qualified people," he said

Another benefit the community-based recruiters will have is administrative assistants to help eliminate paperwork distractions.

"Our recruiters will be afforded the opportunity to make sales presentations at high schools, colleges and stay deeply involved in the community," Hunter said. "They will know the educators, moms, dads, clergymen and other centers of influence in the community. When the town's sons and daughters go off to basic, our recruiters will still be there when they get back to help facilitate their transition back into the community."

Meeting recruiting quotas and being successful as civilian recruiters are inherent, Hunter said, because failure is not an option.

"The Army realizes that there are a number of jobs that can be outsourced to civilians, and done successfully," Tarter said. "It doesn't have to take well-trained NCOs out of their primary military occupational specialty for detailed tasks."

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Treasures found at Redstone Arsenal

Treasure hunt promotes MWR facilities, programs and services

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
beths@htimes.com

You don't have to be a leprechaun to find a pot of gold at Redstone Arsenal.

Complete the MWR treasure hunt and you'll be rewarded with MWR bucks from a pot of gold at the Officers and Civilians Club and the chance to win the grand prize drawing at the block party April 20.

All you have to do is visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation web site at www.redstonemwr.com and print a treasure map, instructions and answer sheet. Then visit the 15 facilities as instructed, answer the questions and obtain a signature from a MWR staff member at each location.

You don't have to complete the treasure hunt all at once or visit the locations in a particular order, but the last facility you visit should be the Officers and Civilians Club. Exchange your answer sheet at the administration office there and Vicki McCoy, MWR membership representative, will let you choose an envelope from the MWR pot of gold. Each envelope contains $25, $50 or $100 in MWR bucks that can be used as cash at any MWR facility on Redstone Arsenal.

"Col. Brent Swart (deputy post commander) had the original idea of a scavenger hunt. Then we looked at different ways to do it," Yvonne Cole, sales and marketing director, said. "The goal is to increase awareness of the MWR web site, locations, programs and services ... It's very easy and we tried to make it very fun."

All authorized users of MWR facilities are eligible for the treasure hunt. They include active military, retired military, Department of Defense personnel, NASA employees and Redstone Arsenal contractors. Family members must be at least 6 years old to participate in the hunt.

"I thought it was really good and I learned a lot," treasure hunter Bobbie Carroll said. She and her son completed the treasure hunt soon after it was announced to the Redstone community.

Photo by Beth Skarupa

LADY LUCK— Vicki McCoy, MWR membership representative, right, offers treasure hunter Natalie Taylor the chance to choose an envelope from the MWR pot of gold. Each envelope contains $25, $50 or $100 in MWR bucks that can be used like cash at any Redstone Arsenal MWR facility.

"I heard they enjoyed it," Cole said. "We just want everyone to have the opportunity to experience what MWR and Redstone have to offer and it's a lot of fun. (The treasure hunt) was set up for the quickest and easiest route from the starting point to the ending location. I did it in two days, a couple of hours each day, and I asked a lot more questions at each facility than someone else might ask."

MWR staff members are also excited about the treasure hunt. A separate contest running in conjunction with the treasure hunt encourages front line employees to get treasure hunters' signatures when they come in to find answers at the employees' facilities. This allows them to practice their customer service skills while they obtain as many signatures as possible. They'll be rewarded with MWR promotional items such as MWR wear.

The treasure hunt will continue through the end of March and, according to Cole, may be offered longer depending on the amount of feedback MWR gets from the promotion.

Photo by Beth Skarupa

TIME OUT— From left Gail Glass, Outdoor Recreation program director, and Brandie DeRemer, MWR program planner, discuss the RVs that are available for rental at Outdoor Recreation. The facility is one of the locations on the MWR treasure hunt map.

"But it's of benefit to start now and complete (the treasure hunt) by the end of March because the block party is April 20 and we'll give away the grand prize drawing then," she said. "(The grand prize) is a secret right now, but I will tell that it's more than one item and it's a nice prize."

Although all authorized users of MWR facilities are eligible to participate in the treasure hunt, those without a Redstone Arsenal badge may want to get a MWR membership card, golf annual fee or child and youth services card to facilitate entering the Arsenal. Cole stressed that a MWR membership card is not necessary to participate in the treasure hunt.

"There's so much going on throughout MWR and the treasure hunt is a great way to see it firsthand," she said. "You may find out that you're interested in woodworking or trying your hand at golf, camping or boating. We have it all and it's located on post."

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Money matters

Soldiers advised to save money, invest in future

ACS and financial advisers offer education for soldiers

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
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If nothing else, the collapse of Enron Corporation has made more Americans aware of the need for financial education in a time when most have to fund their own retirement and make important decisions when it comes to credit cards, mortgages and investments.

Not knowing financial basics can lead many into financial ruin. That's why Ann Owens, the financial readiness manager at Army Community Service, has been conducting financial training sessions for soldiers and is planning some evening classes for husband-and-wife teams in March.

"One of the main things that's really good for those in civil service and for the soldiers is that they have a Thrift Savings Plan. The problem is a lot of soldiers are not getting the word out, they don't have the information they need. I'm trying to get that out to the soldiers," Owens said.

She teaches soldiers how to find the information they need to control their finances. Her training sessions include understanding a leave and earnings statement and how to create a budget.

"They have to set goals to know where their money's going to go and what they're going to do with it and how much they will have at end of pay period," she said.

Owens encourages soldiers to look for information on the Internet about the TSP at www.tsp.gov and to compare what financial information they find with that found at the Federal Trade Commission's web site (www.ftc.com) and the Consumer Affairs web site (www.consumer.gov). She also said speaking to a financial adviser can be helpful. She urges soldiers to be careful and compare information from several different sources before making decisions.

Spec. F. DeKarlos Blackmon agrees that soldiers need financial education so they will save for the future and he thinks that financial education should be command driven. He's put his own money to work for him by investing in some mutual funds and certificates of deposit.

"About 1998, after I got into the Army, I was in Korea and there was not a lot of need to spend my money. Coming from Fort Jackson (S.C.), I talked to a financial adviser at Regions and created a number of CDs," he said. "Actually I wasn't thinking toward retirement then. My initial reason was that I had this money and I thought, 'Why should I just let it sit?'"

Angie Lunn, a registered representative for First Command Financial Planning, cautions soldiers not to let Enron's fall give them the wrong impression about the stock market. She explained that Thrift Savings Plan, for example, is a common stock fund. So although Enron was one of the top 500 stocks in the SNP index, its highest percent of holding in the TSP would be 1 percent.

"So if someone had $200,000 in their TSP, the impact on their TSP is relative to how the other stocks did," Lunn said. "That person could have lost $2,000, but if the others in the SNP went up that would offset it. It's relative to the other stocks' performance, so the fall of one company in the SNP will have minimal impact on a person's TSP."

In this way the TSP provides safety because it's limited as to how much holding can be put into each company. But it can happen either way, up or down. Even if a particular stock does extremely well, it won't have much effect on the TSP overall. The main problem with Enron, according to Lunn, was that the Enron employees lost their money since their retirement funds were in Enron stock.

"If there are lessons to be learned from Enron they are first, to use a professional financial adviser and second, to use the right tool to meet financial goals," she said. "You have to understand whatever financial decision you make has to be related to the length of time of your financial goals and use the right tool, or fund, to accomplish those goals."

For example, if a person came in at 50 years old and wanted to retire at 55 they shouldn't put their money in an equity or stock mutual fund investment because they would not have enough time to withstand ups and downs in the market. The shorter time you have to accomplish your goals, the less risk you can take.

Another example is if a person's goal is to have enough money within five years for a down payment on a home. With that goal, Lunn would advise them to use a money market fund because it's FDIC-insured and low risk. Since there is not a lot of interest on it, whatever happens the person would at least get his original payment back.

The longer the time line to achieve a goal moves out, it's less likely that an individual won't improve on his initial investment and it's more likely that the individual can overcome volatility.

For more information about financial education or the financial training sessions offered by Owens at ACS, call 876-5397. To speak with a financial adviser at First Command, an organization that develops financial plans for the military, call 837-3310.

Photo by Beth Skarupa

MONEY TALK— Ann Owens, financial readiness manager at Army Community Service, left, and Spec. F. DeKarlos Blackmon talk about questions listed on the evaluations of a financial training session she offered to soldiers recently. Soldiers requested more information on investments, the Thrift Savings Plan and IRAs.

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00021161

West Point accepting applications from soldiers

Admissions office rep to visit March 21-22

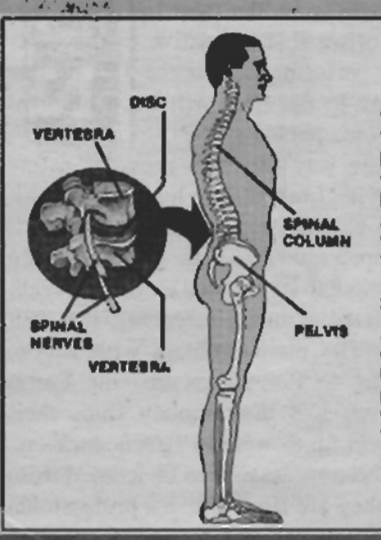
WEST POINT RELEASE

Each year approximately 150 Regular Army soldiers are offered admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point or the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J. Although some soldiers are offered direct admission to West Point, the majority attend USMAPS. The Prep School provides the appropriate academic, military and physical instruction to qualify and motivate soldiers for admission to and graduation from West Point, and for commissioning as Army second lieutenants.

The Prep School curriculum prepares soldiers for success at West Point through an intensive curriculum focused on both English and mathematics. Interested soldiers must be U.S. citizens, be unmarried, with no legal obligation to support dependents, be a high school graduate, not be 23 years of age prior to July 1 of the year entering West Point (not be 22 years of age prior to July 1 of the year entering the Prep School), be of high moral character and have a sincere interest in attending West Point and becoming an Army officer.

Capt. Cliff Hodges, from the West Point Admissions Office, will be at the Heritage Hall on March 21 at 6:30 a.m. to give an admissions brief to all soldiers on the process of making application. Interested soldiers should contact their chain of command and arrange for time to attend the briefing. All interested soldiers are encouraged to attend regardless of high school academic performance. Hodges will sponsor a buffet breakfast for key officers and NCOs at 6:30 a.m. March 22 at the Officers and Civilians Club.

This is a great opportunity for soldiers who desire a first rate college education and officer's commission. Soldiers who meet the aforementioned basic eligibility requirements, have achieved SAT scores greater than 1050 or ACT composite score of 22 or higher, and achieved good grades in a college preparatory high school curriculum are especially encouraged to apply. All application requirements must be met by April 1, 2003 to be considered for an appointment to West Point or the Prep School in July 2003. Interested soldiers should call Hodges ASAP to request an application at (845) 938-5780 or via e-mail: tc2324@usma.edu.



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Women have often pointed men in the right direction

March celebrated each year as Women's History Month

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

Men weren't always opposed to asking for directions.

Lewis and Clark, during their exploration of the wild and rugged terrain of the west, relied on Sacajawea, an Indian woman, to guide them on their journey.

Clark described her efforts in a journal entry as "guiding us unerringly... intelligent, cheerful, resourceful and tireless... she inspired us all."

There are many other firsts that are little known about the contributions women have made to this country. Women have been performing and excelling in many roles traditionally thought of as "male only."

During the Revolutionary War, Deborah Sampson wielded a musket as a foot soldier in the Colonial army in 1782. She served admirably until her true identity was found out and she was removed from service.

Frances Hook, a.k.a. Frank Miller, served in the Union Army for 10 months, was wounded and captured by the Confederacy, offered a commission by Jefferson Davis which she turned down, and was then returned to the North. Hook claims to have assisted in the burial of at least three other female soldiers, whose gender no one else knew, during her military career.

It was estimated that more than 400 women, posing as men, were in active combat during the Civil War. These women have answered the question of whether or not a woman can do the job.

Democrat Geraldine Ferraro may be the most notable female vice presidential candidate in recent history but she certainly wasn't the first woman to run for high office. Victoria Claflin Woodhull opened a highly successful brokerage firm in New York City in 1868, a first for women, then ran for president of the United States in 1872 on the Radical Reformers Party ticket.

Susan B. Anthony, in 1972 was the first woman pictured on a U.S. coin but the first female ever pictured on U.S. currency was Martha Washington on the $1 bill of 1886.

Before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier of professional baseball in 1946, Virne Beatrice Mitchell was doing battle against traditions as the first female pitcher on an organized male baseball team. Mitchell, on her first time to the mound for the Chattanooga Lookonts and during an exhibition game with the New York Yankees, struck out both Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.

In more recent history, professional pilot Jerrie Cobb, 29, was recruited in 1959 to secretly undergo testing for the Mercury space program while her male counterparts, John Glenn and Alan Shepard, took the same tests publicly.

In all three sets of tests, Cobb performed at or above the levels of the men but the agency selected an all male crew for the space team.

When two other women following Cobb's performance also secretly tested and tested well, NASA abruptly canceled all testing on women. They later admitted before a congressional subcommittee that they were not actually prepared to have a woman represent the United States in space and that the testing of women was experimental in anticipation of a time when space trips with females would become appropriate.

History will always have the popular successes of women such as Clara Barton founding the Red Cross, Jane Addams and her work with the Hull House for immigrants and the poor, Eleanor Roosevelt taking an active role in the position of First Lady and Sandra Day O'Connor as the first U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Women's history is written daily through the routine lives of women who choose to stay home and raise a family and those out in a more visible position as a career woman. Some do both — but all are part of the successes of the past and the foundations for a limitless future.

Russell Moore/ Photo Lab

Meritorious service award

Dr. Robin Buckelew, director of Missile Guidance Directorate, RDEC, presents to retired Dr. George Emmons the Meritorious Civilian Service Award in recognition of his career of more than 42 years during an award reception Feb. 21. Emmons was a supervisory electronics engineer at Missile Guidance Directorate from January 1971 to September 2001.

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Please refer to position number 01-02/570.

0021170

To enjoy Tricare for Life, retirees must update enrollment

Defense reporting system will determine eligibility

TRICARE RELEASE

Rejection! That's hardly the experience some 1.5 million jubilant military retirees and their family members expected when Congress voted to create the Tricare for Life benefit last year for Department of Defense beneficiaries aged 65 and over.

Unfortunately, some elderly beneficiaries had TFL claims rejected because they had failed to keep their eligibility up-to-date in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Now, DoD is taking three steps to fix this problem and ensure that older beneficiaries get the coverage that Congress intended them to have.

First, it is going to go back and pay previously denied claims regardless of "expired eligibility" entries in DEERS records. Claims back to the TFL start date (Oct. 1, 2001) will be reprocessed automatically; no action by beneficiaries or health-care providers is needed.

Second, DoD will continue to pay claims for such beneficiaries until Aug. 1, to give them ample time to establish or renew their eligibility.

Third, it is launching a massive publicity effort to inform over-65 beneficiaries of the absolute necessity of getting and/or keeping their DEERS enrollments up-to-date. (Those who have already had claims rejected have received Explanation of Benefits statements explaining the problem. But those without recent claims need to be informed before Aug. 1.)

DoD policy requires that beneficiaries' eligibility be re-verified every four years. After Aug. 1, beneficiaries who have not gotten their DEERS status straightened out will be cut off from TFL benefits again, and this time they will stay cut off until they do get their DEERS files up to date.

Officials are concerned about two challenges: how best to get the word out to elderly beneficiaries who may be out of touch with the military and how to help immobile beneficiaries accomplish their re-verification.

"Word of mouth may be the best way to alert them," said a U.S. Army Medical Command spokesman. "We hope that people who do hear about this will pass the word on to any elderly beneficiaries they know who might be homebound and might not get the news directly."

But media popular with retirees will also be used, and DoD is working with retiree organizations like The Military Coalition and the National Military and Veterans Alliance to reach these beneficiaries and tell them how to update DEERS.

The mechanics of the process are simple enough for beneficiaries that frequent military installations, but may be challenging for those in remote areas or confined to home.

Retirees themselves usually have identification cards of indefinite duration and should encounter few problems with DEERS. However, their family members receive ID cards limited to four years of validity. After four years, DEERS terminates their eligibility for military benefits (including Tricare) unless they renew their cards.

This is normally done by visiting an ID-card issuing facility at a nearby installation. When the new ID card is issued, the facility automatically notifies DEERS to renew the recipient's eligibility for military benefits. (Note: ID-card facilities are operated by military personnel officials – not by Tricare or military medical officials.)

Problems can arise for individuals unable to travel to a military installation. DoD officials are exploring how to make this process easier for such people.

Meanwhile, an Army Medical Command Tricare expert says the best advice is for immobile beneficiaries – or those caring for them – to contact the closest ID-card issuer by phone, explain the problem, and work out a personalized solution.

Policies and options vary depending on service and location. In some cases, IDs can be issued by mail for genuinely homebound beneficiaries, if someone can secure a photo of the individual.

A list of nearby ID-card offices can be obtained by doing a search (by city, state or zip code) on this DoD web site: http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/

More information on updating DEERS is found at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSaddress/

Another alternative is to telephone 1-800-361-2620.

For information on Tricare for Life, visit the Tricare web site at http://www.tricare.osd.mil/; or call the Tricare Information Center, toll-free, at 1-877-363-5433 (1-877-DOD-LIFE); or write the Tricare Management Activity; Skyline 5, Suite 810; 5111 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, Va., 22041-3206.

"We want to ensure that our beneficiaries, some of whom are re-entering the Military Health System, and using Tricare for the first time, have the best possible experience and receive their rightful benefits," said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "We will do everything we can to overcome initial difficulties that may arise."

TFL provides pharmacy benefits and Tricare coverage secondary to Medicare. More than 3.1 million health care claims have been paid since the program started in October 2001.

Electronic-mail scam captures attention from authorities

'Nigerian Scam' promises proceeds from transaction

PROVOST MARSHAL OFFICE RELEASE

There has been a marked rise in employees receiving e-mail solicitations from individuals claiming to be government officials, doctors, lawyers, auditors, etc., from various countries on the continent of Africa since the first of the year.

These e-mails are notifying people their assistance is needed in several ways to facilitate a transfer of money. They are told that for an advanced fee of XXX amount of dollars to cover expenses, or have the victim set up or provide a bank account number, or to provide their social security number or other identifying data, they will be rewarded with 35 percent of the transaction amount of $52 million or more.

Once this information is received, the victims find that they have lost large sums of money. It is hard to pinpoint how much has been lost in these scams since many victims do not report their losses to authorities due to fear or embarrassment.

This is commonly referred to as the Nigerian Scam and has been around for several years, having been conducted by mail, fax, and now e-mail. The amounts of money stated to entice potential victims has ranged from $20 million to $12 billion.

The Nigerian Scam is only one of many scams currently being plied by criminals over the Internet; and the U.S. Secret Service is actively investigating this fraudulent activity. If you receive an e-mail of this nature, please forward it to Crimestop@Redstone.Army.Mil and it will be forwarded to the appropriate U.S. Secret Service office.

As Internet consumers we must all be aware of who may have access to our personal information and remember, never provide personal information to unknown people, or credit card and bank account information over the Internet through open e-mail. If this type of information has to be provided, ensure it is done utilizing a secure site using 128bit encryption.

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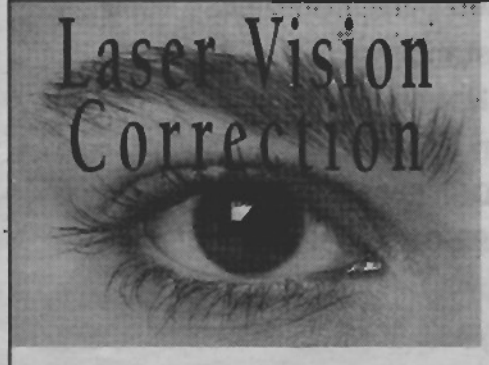

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Soldiers help special athletes bowl for the gold

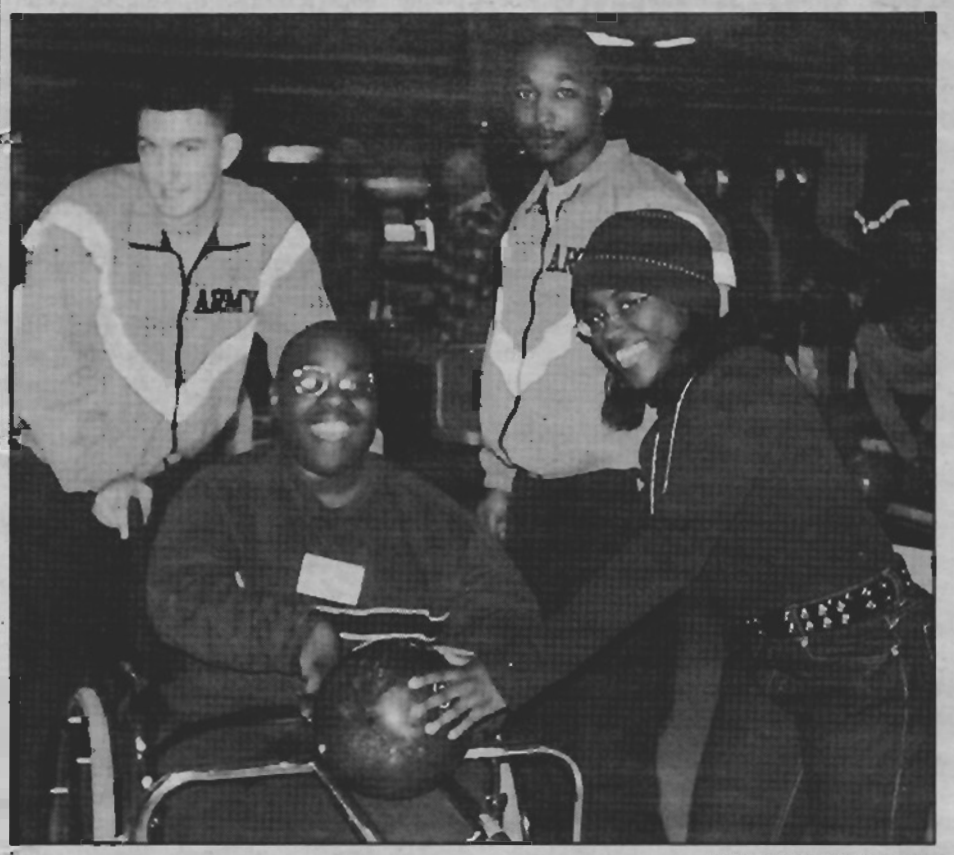

Photo by Sandy Riebeling

READY TO ROLL— Special athlete Courtney Bush from Chapman Middle School gets a little help from his new friends during the Special Olympics bowling tournament Thursday at Plamor Lanes. From left are Pvt. Jonathan Smith and Pvt. Richard Kinard both from Headquarters and Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, and Naval JROTC cadet Tracy Smith.

Redstone Arsenal support boosts Special Olympics

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandyr@htimes.com

There were strikes, spares and smiles all around at the Special Olympics bowling tournament Thursday at Plamor Lanes.

Once again, Redstone soldiers paired up with 120 special athletes from public and private schools across Madison County, including many city schools, to give the Olympians a helping hand and a pat on the back.

"The bowling is the funnest part but the soldiers are really cool, too," Jarquez Hatchett, special athlete from Madison Crossroads School, said. "I think it's cool the way they help people."

About 25 Redstone soldiers participated in the annual event, coordinated by Kay Scott, a Riverton Middle School physical education teacher. Unlike years past, the soldiers had a little help from 40 Naval JROTC cadets visiting the post from Cleveland Naval Academy in St. Louis. The academy is a public high school where the 1,000-plus students are all Naval JROTC cadets.

"We got here Monday morning and it's been great, great, great," James Owens, chief, Naval JROTC cadets, said. "The kids have had a full week. We were originally scheduled to leave this morning but they asked if we would help out here at the Olympics and I thought it was a great opportunity. I think they're going to leave here a lot more humble after this experience."

"This is my first time working with the Olympics," Pvt. Richard Kinard, Headquarters and Alpha Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, said. "I love being here. I can't be with my four in Maryland right now but being around all these kids helps."

Volunteering for the Special Olympics is nothing new to Pvt. Jonathan Smith, Headquarters and Alpha Company. He spent two years working with the program at a YMCA in Florida.

"This is great," Smith said. "Everyone's having a good time. I'm making new friends. It's a great way to spend the day."

Naval cadet Tracy Smith worked with Kinard and Smith during the tournament.

"I've enjoyed my time here (at Redstone)," Smith said. "I especially liked shooting the missiles on the computer and doing the helicopter simulator, but I like this, too."

Army Community Service also helped with the tournament by supplying refreshments and a few volunteers.

"This is a great event for the kids," Natalie Taylor, Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, said. "We've been doing it for a lot of years. The soldiers assist the children in the morning and then adults from the community come in the afternoon."

A Thrift Shop donation helped pay for the soldiers' and cadets' lunches at Plamor.

Soldiers were required to follow guidelines for the tournament because this is a qualifying event to the state Special Olympics in May at Auburn University.

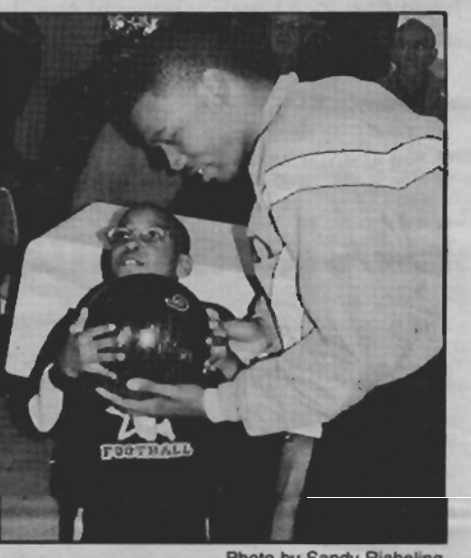

Photo by Sandy Riebeling

HELPING HAND— Special athlete Jarquez Hatchett, second-grader at Madison Crossroads, gets his grip on the ball while his soldier friend SSgt. Charles Mason, Delta Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, gives him a few last minute pointers.

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Win or lose

Holy Family's boys basketball team wins Huntsville tournament

Fifth and sixth graders have post connections

Several members of the champion Holy Family School boys basketball team have parents who work at Redstone.

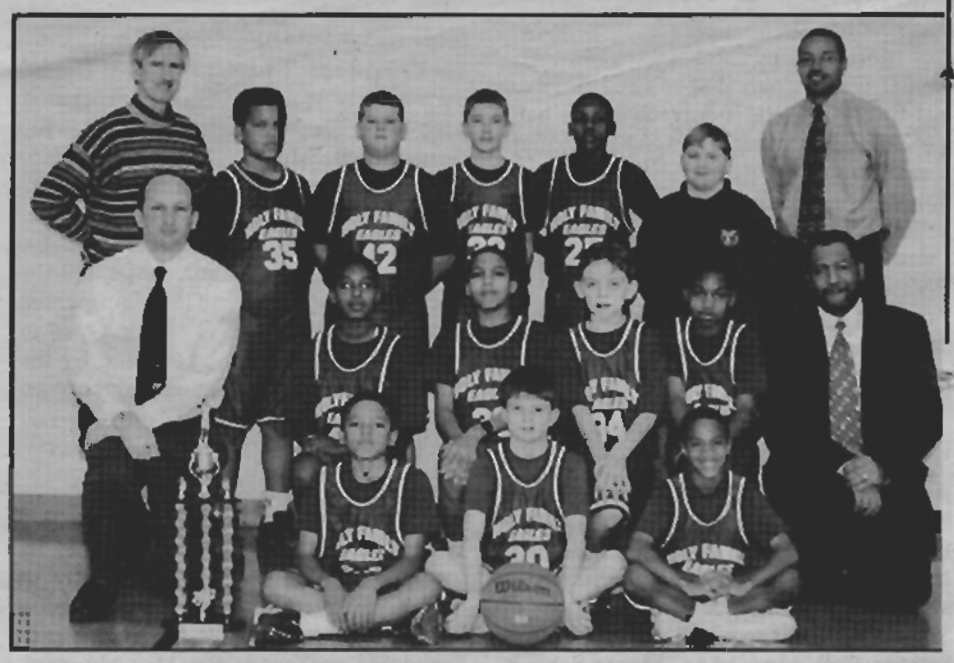
Holy Family's fifth and sixth grade boys team won the Huntsville Independent School League tournament championship Feb. 16 by beating Grace Lutheran School 24-21, despite trailing most of the game.

Eagles players with Redstone connections include Charles Camp, whose mother Claire works in the Corporate Information Center; Zachary Folk, whose father Dan works in Unmanned Ground Vehicle Project Office; Blair Gaines, son of contractor and assistant coach Chris; William Thompson, son of Acquisition Center's and assistant coach Freddie; and Homer Reynolds III, son of Resource Management Directorate's and head coach Homer.

Zachary Folk and Eagles teammate Everic Smith were named to the all-tournament team.

Holy Family finished with a 16-1 record, avenging its only loss of the season by beating Grace Lutheran in the tournament final.

There's at least one more Redstone connection. Mary Tomaine is Holy Family's principal; and her husband, Bob, is chief of the air vehicle branch in the Comanche Project Office.



Anna Ramirez/ HFS teacher

WINNING TEAM— Members of the Holy Family School fifth and sixth grade boys basketball team include from left, seated in front row, Charles Camp, James Orillion, Blair Gaines; kneeling in middle row, assistant coach Patrick Burris, Phillip-Michael Scruggs, Homer Reynolds III, Shawn Burris, Everic Smith, head coach Homer Reynolds; standing in back row, assistant coach Matthew Orillion, William Thompson, Christopher Wagner, Zachary Folk, Bryan Jaeper, team trainer Stuart Page and assistant coach Christopher Gaines. Not pictured are players Rex Bailey and Justin Norman, and assistant coach Freddie Thompson.

Jones delivers in clutch for Bravo basketball team

Free throws in final seconds lift Bulldogs over ROTC

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Only four seconds remained in the game when Bravo Company's Chrishea Jones stepped to the free throw line with her team trailing ROTC by one point.

It was a one-and-one situation for Jones, a 5-foot-5 guard. Miss the first free throw and her team would have to scramble for the rebound; or she could make the first for the tie and the second for the lead.

Jones delivered.

Her two free throws put Bravo team-1 ahead to stay. ROTC's Toussunt Trammell missed a desperation 3-pointer from half court as the buzzer sounded.

Bravo-1 beat Alabama A&M ROTC 49-48 on Feb. 26 at Pagano Gym. The Bulldogs improved to 10-4 and ROTC, an Eastern Conference rival, fell to 9-5.

"I think we won through determination, even though we had some flaws in our game," Bravo-1 center Reggie Williams said. "We might've had two long stints where we didn't score. But we stayed focused and we were committed to winning."

The Bulldogs, who led 26-20 at halftime, went scoreless for nine minutes in the first half and six minutes in the second. "Every time we had an 8 or 10 point lead, we just let them right back into the game," Williams said.

The youthful ROTC team raced to a 12-1 lead at the start. "We're not a fast-starting team," Williams, age 35, said. "You're dealing with old men. The average age of our starting lineup is probably about 30-32 years old."

Bravo-1 prevailed despite missing its energetic point guard, Donte Fisher, who had class that night. The Bulldogs started Williams, guards James Massey and Joseph Rizo, and forwards Amos Jackson and Demmonique Walker.

Jackson led the way with 15 points and Williams added 12. ROTC was led by Trammell with 18 points and Charlie Mack III with 10.

Mack's 3-pointer from the right corner gave ROTC a 48-47 lead with 15 seconds left. But the lead proved to be short-lived. Bravo-1 brought the ball to half court and ROTC got whistled for a foul, leading to Jones' heroics.

"I feel the referees were a little uneven with their calling of the game," ROTC coach Robin Livingston said. "The game was real physical coming from the Bravo team. And I feel they got away with a lot of calls from the refs. And if it went fairly, I feel we would've won."

Here were the troop basketball standings as of Friday:

Eastern Conference

	W	L
HHC 59th	12	2
Bravo-1	13	4
Charlie	10	5
ROTC	9	5
Marines	7	8
K Battery 4/14th Marines	4	10
Charlie 1/167th team-1	2	11

Western Conference

	W	L
Delta	11	2
AMCOM	11	3
NCO Academy	7	8
Bravo-2	6	9
Charlie 1/167th team-2	3	13

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